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Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot Concord, NH

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA Region 1 selected the City of Concord for a Regional Brownfields Pilot. Changes in transportation and industrial technology rendered many properties in the heart of Concord (population 37,000) obsolete, including rail yards and maintenance sheds, gas and steam plants, and factories. Although many of the buildings on these properties have been demolished, their legacy of hazardous wastes has hindered productive reuse of over 440 acres with an estimated future redevelopment potential in excess of \$100 million, which is equivalent to seven percent of the City's 1994 total assessed value. More than 60 proven or potentially contaminated sites have been identified within the 440-acre brownfields corridor.

OBJECTIVES

The City of Concord's brownfields objective is to identify contamination in the corridor. In addition to generating new revenue, the City estimates that the employment potential of the area, which lies adjacent to the City's lowest income neighborhoods, exceeds 2,500 jobs, or eight percent of Concord's total employment.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Concord, New Hampshire

Date of Award: September 1996

Amount: \$90,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets a 440-acre corridor of old industrial sites, vacant lots, and abandoned buildings between downtown Concord and the Merrimack River.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot has:

• Completed Level I environmental assessments in the northern area of the corridor. A report integrating the northern area assessments with a separate effort to assess areas in the southern part of the corridor is in progress.

The Pilot is:

- Establishing a process to identify sites where a Level II environmental assessment will be conducted; and
- Planning an executive summary of the Level I assessments and site-specific fact sheets summarizing the Level II assessment results for use by the general public.